(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that developed western countries are giving annual subsidy in terms of billions of dollars to their agricultural producers; and

(d) if so, what arrangements will be made to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No official statement to the effect that "The key for the development of agriculture is to increase the capital investment and not to give subsidy" has been made by Planning Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is true that the developed countries continue to provide large amounts of subsidy to their agricultural producers. In order to protect farmers in developing countries, in the ongoing negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the developing countries, including India, have demanded elimination of policies involving heavy farm subsidies pursued by developed countries. The negotiations are still continuing.

Rice scam

1594. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of rice scam in Karnataka;

(b) the quantity of rice involved and misused which was meant for Food for Work Programme;

(c) whether an enquiry by CBI is being ordered/contemplated; and

(d) whether similar scams occurred in other States in the country; if so, the details threof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.